



May 17, 2004

Providence man pleads guilty to gun possession

Jerrell Page, of Providence, has pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm, admitting that he had a handgun on him in January when Providence Police stopped a car in which he was a passenger.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty plea, which Page entered today before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Page, 31, of 8 Nebraska Street, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for August 13.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly said that, on January 2, Providence detectives received information that Page had been involved in several drive-by shootings and was carrying a handgun to protect himself. Page has a prior felony conviction for possessing a pistol without a license and is prohibited from possessing firearms.

At about 10:50 PM on January 2, detectives observed a car with Page in the front passenger street and stopped the car at Thurbers and Rugby Streets for a traffic infraction. Page tried to leave the car but was stopped by detectives, who frisked him and felt a handgun. Detectives subdued Page after a struggle and seized a .357 caliber revolver from him.

Page pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The statutory maximum penalty is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing

-more-

is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donnelly is prosecuting it. The case is being prosecuted under a **Project Safe Neighborhoods** initiative in which firearms cases are jointly reviewed by the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office to determine where best to prosecute them. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes and gun violence.

-30-

Contact: 401-528-5224

E-mail: thomas.connell@usdoj.gov